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P.B.5818 - Patentlaan 2
2280 HV Rijswijk (ZH)
☎ +31 70 340 2040
TX 31651 epo nl
FAX +31 70 340 3016

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Goode, Ian Roy
London Patent Operation
General Electric International, Inc.
15 John Adam Street
London WC2N 6LU
GRANDE BRETAGNE

U.S. Pending
K. Parkes / S. Ross

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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

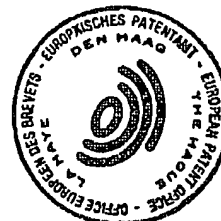
☒ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: 2

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	WO 98 24042 A (HAO BEILENE ;ELGIN RICHARD L (US); SUNDSTRAND CORP (US); EASTMAN D) 4 June 1998 (1998-06-04) * abstract * * page 1, line 10 - page 4, line 3 * * page 5, line 14 - page 10, line 3 * * page 15, line 1 - page 17, line 16 * * page 18, line 11 - page 19, line 2 * * claims 1,3 * ---	1-11	G06F17/60
X	US 5 455 777 A (FUJIYAMA KAZUNARI ET AL) 3 October 1995 (1995-10-03) * abstract * * column 1, line 9-16 * * column 2, line 4-13 * * column 2, line 46 - column 4, line 58 * * column 6, line 18-63 * * column 7, line 13 - column 8, line 3 * * column 11, line 61-64 * * column 13, line 25-38 * * column 17, line 33-53 * ---	1-11	
X	US 6 067 486 A (IRVING RUSSELL ROBERT ET AL) 23 May 2000 (2000-05-23) * the whole document * ---	1-11	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) G06F G07C
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2000, no. 07, 29 September 2000 (2000-09-29) & JP 2000 097814 A (MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP), 7 April 2000 (2000-04-07) * abstract * ---	1-11	
A	EP 0 867 841 A (ESG ELEKTRONIK SYSTEM GMBH) 30 September 1998 (1998-09-30) * abstract * * page 2, column 3-48 * * claim 1 * ---	1-11	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 2 December 2003	Examiner Peelen, B
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons &: member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.02 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

02-12-2003

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